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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Aaron Giuoco [mailto:aaron.giuoco@att.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2005 8:13 PM  
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Kathleen Abernathy  
Subject: Deregulation of Open Access for DSL

Dear Chairman Kevin Martin, Commissioner Michael Copps, Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, and Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy,

I am a customer of an Oplink.net, an independent ISP in the Houston, Texas Metropolitan area that provides DSL Internet service. I believe that deregulation of Open Access for DSL data transport will harm me and the ability of Oplink.net to provide competitive services to Houston area businesses and residents. Consumers need and deserve the choices they enjoy today, and deregulation will take away my right to choose providers and services.

President Bush signed Executive Order 13272 on August 13, 2002 requiring federal agencies to implement policies protecting small entities when writing new rules and regulations. President Bush put forth his Small Business Agenda that states that every new business starts with an idea for a better product or process, which has been the driving force of Internet innovation we enjoy today.

These ideas become reality only when confident entrepreneurs are willing to take economic risks, and ISPs like Oplink.net have gallantly taken this risk. Small businesses are the heart of the American economy because they drive innovation - new firms are established on the very premise that they can do a better job and recognize that a one-size-fits all approach is not good for business and innovation.

A few legacy carriers cannot continue to benefit from valuable government grants and licenses, including the use of public rights-of-way, and be allowed to extend those rights in a way that bars others from offering their services to the public.

President Bush has called for recognition that supporting small businesses in America is critical for continued job creation. Today, small businesses create two-thirds of new private sector jobs in America, employ more than half of all workers, and account for more than half of the output of our economy.

The FCC has been entrusted with protecting consumers, encouraging economic development, and ensuring that competition is allowed to develop, rather than being quashed by a deregulated monopoly. Already, we are seeing the Bells move to increase prices, and without DSL regulation, small businesses will be harmed, thousands of ISPs may be forced out business, highly-skilled workers may lose their jobs and consumers will lose the choice of platform for broadband services and support.

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I have used many different ISPs, including SBC. SBC has provided the worst service by far. In fact, the reason I am with a small, independent ISP like Oplink.net is because of their great customer service. This deregulation will only serve to hurt my choice as a consumer.

Deregulation will be bad for America and we encourage you to reconsider deregulating open access.

Sincerely,

Aaron Giuoco  
Houston, TX 77099